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->From the Editor’s Keyboard "Saying it like it is!"
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Here we are, the beginning of the long Fourth of July holiday weekend! Hopefully, everyone is stocked up with plenty of food for some cookouts, as well as a cooler or two full of ice cold beverages (yeah, beer!). Yup, I finished stocking up on my supplies today - so we’re all set to go. I’ll manage to get in some grilling time in-between having to work over the long weekend. But, that’s okay - I managed to take off a couple of days after the holiday. One way or another, I’ll manage to get that long weekend!

Do yourself and your friends and neighbors a favor during this long weekend - enjoy holiday celebrations, but remember to do everything with responsibility in mind! Most importantly, do not drink and drive! Happy 4th of July!

Until next time...

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ST NEWS Site Reborn

Over the past half year, the ST NEWS site has been overhauled. Check it out to discover:

- All articles!
- All demos!
- All music!
- All scrollers
- All on-disk source/bonus materials
- All issues downloadable in optimised .ST images for your favourite emulator
- Vastly extended and improved 100+ picture & video gallery, newly scanned where possible
- Fully searchable
- Mobile device compatibility
- Random article option
- All pages commentable
- ST NEWS site banner graphics competition
- Bonus complete Ultimate Virus Killer book

Thanks to Frederic "Dyno" Poeydomenge for endless work, help and patience, with additional awesomeness by Karl "Mellowman" Cullen! #stnewsreborn

http://WWW.ST-NEWS.COM

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->In This Week's Gaming Section - Nintendo NX Coming Out In Nine Months?
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->A-ONE's Game Console Industry News - The Latest Gaming News!
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Are We Really Supposed To Believe The Nintendo NX Is Coming Out In Nine Months?

In 2015, Nintendo made a bit of a strange proclamation. In the face of declining Wii U and 3DS sales, they announced to their investors that they were indeed working on a piece of new hardware, the NX. They would say nothing more about it, and as they made clear, they would keep saying nothing until 2016, presumably the year it would be released.

2016 arrived, and things became stranger still. Nintendo was silent about the NX for months, until finally, when they did start talking about it again, it was only to say that the console would not be at E3, the largest games show of the year. They did, however, give a release date for it, March 2017.

Right now, March 2017 is eight months away, nine months if we re waiting until the very end of the month. E3 has come and gone and Nintendo was true to their word, they didn t reveal anything about the console at all. But in the weeks that have followed, there s been nothing. No announcements about the console, nor even announcements about announcements, that an NX-focused Direct is on the way. Once again, there has simply been nothing.

Nintendo has defended their secrecy, deflecting questions about the NX at E3 by saying they re worried about imitators stealing whatever the central hook is for the NX. I can buy this, but only to a point. Microsoft and Sony are deep into Scorpio and NEO development, which seem to be pretty relentlessly focused on power. It seem incredibly unlikely to me that Nintendo would

reveal some aspect of their new console that in the next nine months both companies would immediately try to rip-off, especially considering the performance of the Wii U, and how MS/Sony s own tech fared when they tried to rip-off the Wii the last time with the Move and Kinect.

There has just been shockingly little information about the NX from Nintendo directly. I believe only two third parties have confirmed games on the system (Dragon Quest and Just Dance) and Nintendo has said that Zelda: Breath of the Wild is cross-generation. But besides that? Practically nothing. Only rumors and whispers about the NX using cartridges and using a controller that doubles as a mobile handheld.

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A-ONE's Headline News
The Latest in Computer Technology News
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

STOP Rule 41 FBI Should Not Get Legal Power To Hack Computers Worldwide

We have been hearing a lot about Rule 41 after the US Department of Justice has pushed an update to the rule.

The change to the Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure grants the FBI much greater powers to hack legally into any computer across the country, and perhaps anywhere in the world, with just a single search warrant authorized by any US judge.

However, both civil liberties groups and tech companies have blasted the proposed change, saying it is an affront to the Fourth Amendment and would allow the cops and Feds in America to hack remotely into people's computers and phones around the world.

Google, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), Demand Progress, FightForTheFuture, TOR (The Onion Router), Private Internet Access and other VPN providers have joined their hands to block changes to Rule 41.

"The U.S. government wants to use an obscure procedure amending a federal rule known as Rule 41 to radically expand their authority to hack," the EFF says. "The changes to Rule 41 would make it easier for them to break into our computers, take data, and engage in remote surveillance."

Back in March, a judicial panel approved the proposed change by the DoJ, and then the U.S. Supreme Court approved the rule change a month later, allowing law enforcement to obtain a warrant to hack into computers as well as phones anywhere in the world.

This means that users of hidden services could all become

vulnerable, no matter which tool they are using, including TOR, VPNs, and proxies.

However, the rule change does not stop here.

"[The rule change] might also extend to people who deny access to location data for smartphone apps because they do not feel like sharing their location with ad networks," the EFF warned in April.

"It could even include isundividuals who change the country setting in an online service, like folks who change the country settings of their Twitter profile to read uncensored Tweets."

The rule change is set to go into effect on December 1st if it is not stopped.

Therefore, in order to stop the rule change that many sees as a danger to computer users security worldwide, Senators Ron Wyden and Rand Paul have introduced a bill, and 50 organizations including privacy tool providers, public interest groups, and Internet companies have written a letter to Congress opposing the changes.

In the letter, Google, EFF, Demand Progress, TOR, FightForTheFuture, Private Internet Access, other VPN providers, Golden Frog, Hide My Ass, and many other organizations have urged Congress to "consider and debate" the implications of the rule change.

You can also take part in the No Global Warrants petition, encourage Congress to block this change to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure before it becomes permanent in December this year.We have been hearing a lot about Rule 41 after the US Department of Justice has pushed an update to the rule.

Judge Decides We Don t Have Any Right to Privacy

It seems we now live in a world where everyone is free to snoop on everyone else to their heart s content.

If you connect your computer to the Internet, like billions of people, then you can t expect any privacy. Or so says a judge in Virginia.

According to eWeek:

A federal judge for the Eastern District of Virginia has ruled that the user of any computer connected to the Internet should not have an expectation of privacy because computer security is ineffectual at stopping hackers.

So, does that mean we can t expect privacy in our own homes because burglars can get in if they really try? If so, surely we may just as well just leave our front doors wide open?

This court ruling goes back to Playpen, the child porn site that

the FBI operated for two weeks in 2015 as a honeytrap.

We reported in May that, during that time, the agency used a so-called network investigative technique (NIT) to identify the website s users.

Computers visiting the site were unwittingly infected with code that could reveal their IP address, defeating anonymity afforded by Tor. (Users and sites on the Tor network hide their IP addresses from each other to help maintain anonymity.)

Senior U.S. District Judge Henry Coke Morgan Jr. upheld the use of a single warrant for the FBI s mass hacking. He even stated that the FBI s original warrant was unnecessary because of the type of crime being investigated:

    The court finds that any such subjective expectation of privacy   if one even existed in this case is not objectively reasonable.

However, while the FBI is focused on establishing the IP addresses of child porn users, another interesting court case could scupper the FBI s efforts completely.

Gizmodo reports on the story of Thomas Gonzales, who was accused of illegally downloading Adam Sandler s film The Cobbler from a shared computer. Oregon District Court Magistrate Judge Stacie Beckerman argued that you can t hold someone accountable for copyright infringement unless you can prove they actually did it, ruling:

    IP-addresses aren t enough to prove that Gonzales was directly involved with copyright infringement.

While the precedents in these cases could affect us all, it s actually really hard to determine where we stand.

Looks like the FBI may have to wait until we re all signing in with biometrics before they can prosecute anyone for online child abuse but even that might not be enough.

Google s Sundar Pichai Has Been Hacked; Which CEO Will Be Next?

Google CEO Sundar Pichai has become the latest tech executive to have a social media account hacked, and the group responsible says more targets will follow.

On Sunday, a group of hackers calling themselves OurMine briefly took over Pichai s account on Quora, a question-and-answer site.

"We are just testing your security, the hackers wrote, with the same message auto-posted via Quora to Pichai s Twitter account. On Monday, the posts had been deleted.

OurMine is the same group that hacked the social media accounts of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg earlier this month, and they’ve claimed other victims too, including the CEO of Spotify and a

prominent Amazon executive.

The hacks have been fairly innocuous so far, with no major repercussions or sensitive data stolen. But Silicon Valley types are likely wondering who'll be next.

In Zuckerberg's case, the hackers claimed to have broken in by finding his password, dadada, which was exposed in a breach at LinkedIn. In Pichai s case, OurMine only said that his security was really weak. The group posted information about the hack on its website.

OurMine said via email that it would continue to hack the accounts of tech executives and celebrities. Last week, the group claimed to have taken over the Twitter accounts of movie star Channing Tatum and of Daniel Ek, the CEO of Spotify, and posted screenshots.

On Monday, the group hit the Twitter account of Amazon CTO Werner Vogels. In a tweet, Vogels said it was actually his Bitly account that had been compromised.

So far, it seems the hacks are more of a publicity stunt. The group has tweeted that users can upgrade their security by purchasing OurMine s services.

For $100, the group claims it can improve the security of social media accounts. For $1,000, it will scan a website for vulnerabilities.

"We are just trying to tell everyone that nobody is safe! OurMine said via email. Some accounts were broken into because of weak passwords, others because of some "vulnerability," the group added, without specifying. OurMine claimed to have made $18,400 so far selling its services.

Facebook Wins Appeal, CPP Warns of Massive Violations of Privacy

Facebook has collared Belgium s privacy watchdog: it s won an appeal in a privacy case and can now resume tracking any Belgian it wants to, including people who ve never registered for an account and those who aren t logged in.

This is the latest twist in a long-running case over Facebook s use of the so-called datr cookie, which lets Facebook track users as they visit other sites, even when they re not logged in to Facebook.

That cookie can be picked up by visitors who visit a friend s page on Facebook, or on any other page on the web with Facebook like or share code in it   even if a visitor never signed up for a Facebook account.

In November, a Belgian court ruled that Facebook was using the datr cookie to illegally collect personal data   the type of data that Facebook should only be allowed to use if the internet user expressly gives their consent, as Belgian privacy law dictates.

Then, Belgium set the clock ticking, saying that Facebook would face fines of up to 250,000 EUR ($267,000 USD) a day if it didn t stop tracking non-Facebook users.

Facebook appealed, on the grounds that Belgium doesn t have the authority to reach cross-border and tell it what to do with data stored on servers in Dublin, which is the social network s European base of operations.

On Wednesday, it won that appeal.

A Brussels appeals court overturned the ruling that had forced Facebook to block people without an account from accessing its site if they were located in Belgium.

The Brussels appeals court also threw out the Belgian privacy watchdog s claim that the case was urgent and required expedited procedure.

From the ruling, as quoted by Bloomberg:

> Belgian courts don t have international jurisdiction over Facebook Ireland, where the data concerning Europe is processed.

The privacy watchdog who brought the suit against Facebook   the Belgian CPP (Commission for the Protection of Privacy)   said in a statement that the show s not over yet.

It may launch an appeal to the court of last resort, the Belgian court of cassation, which has in the past overruled cases involving foreign company jurisdiction.

Specifically, in a case over whether Yahoo had to cooperate with local law enforcement, the court of cassation in December 2015 ruled that information disclosure from a communications network who operates in Belgium doesn t imply that there will be intervention outside of Belgium.

In that case, the court of cassation declared that since Yahoo actively participates in the economic life of Belgium   by using the domain name .be or displaying ads based on users location it voluntarily submits itself to Belgian law.

In the meantime, while the CPP decides whether to appeal Wednesday s decision, the success of Facebook s appeal simply means that the courts aren t protecting Belgian citizens from privacy invasion, the CPP said.

Willem Debeuckelaere, president of the CPP:

> Today s decision means simply that the Belgian citizen cannot obtain privacy protection through the courts when it comes to foreign players. Belgians are thus exposed to massive violations of privacy.

Facebook has in the past countered that Belgium would be turned into a cradle for cyber terrorists without that datr cookie.

Specifically, Facebook has claimed that it uses the datr cookie

as part of the security systems that protect users, and that the cookie prevents user accounts from being hacked.

You Should Update Your Antivirus Software Right Now

A security researcher at Google has found several fatal flaws in Symantec antivirus software (also known as Norton) that he describes as as bad as it gets. Symantec has issued an advisory to customers and released updates that fix the security flaws.

The blog post, written on Tuesday by Google security researcher Tavis Ormandy, is brutal. It chastises Symantec for the multiple critical vulnerabilities he discovered. [The security flaws] don t require any user interaction, they affect the default configuration, and the software runs at the highest privilege levels possible, Ormandy wrote.

Because Symantec uses the same core engine for every product, Ormandy explained, the flaws effect all Symantec software. If your antivirus software doesn t automatically update, it s probably a good idea to do so now.

 Because Symantec uses a filter driver to intercept all system [input and output], just emailing a file to a victim or sending them a link to an exploit is enough to trigger it the victim does not need to open the file or interact with it in anyway, Ormandy wrote. Because no interaction is necessary to exploit it, this is a wormable vulnerability with potentially devastating consequences to Norton and Symantec customers.

Keeping software updated is good computer security hygiene, as it ensures you have the latest patches to any known security flaws. For example, Google Chrome is considered one of the most secure browsers because, among other things, it automatically updates with important security patches.

My Activity: A Tool To See What Google Knows About You

How much does Google really know about us?

Well, let s see how deep is the ocean, and how high is the sky? Probably both are a bit tighter than the ever-expanding capacity of Google s maw.

Depending on which of its tools we use, Google knows what we think, what we need, what we desire, our political and spiritual beliefs, our age, our gender, what music we listen to, what we watch, what we read, where we ve been, where we plan to go, where we work, where we hang out, where we live, who we meet, where we shop, when we shop, what we buy, how much money we re worth, how much we spend, and how much energy we consume.

How does it amass all that data? Through Google search, the Chrome browser, Gmail, Google News, Google+, Book Search, YouTube,

Picasa, Translation, Maps, Street Views, Waze, Nest, and well, the list keeps going, and growing, as Google acquires more companies and more data-crunching ability.

Visual.ly has laid out how Google knows what and which tools are feeding it in this nice infographic.

Google is, of course, an advertising company. It makes money by following us around online and targeting ads it thinks stand a chance of getting our attention.

If you don t like it, well, you can always stop using those Google tools. Toss the smart thermostat and stop using Waze to figure out the fastest way to get where you re going.

At least, that s the way it s been, until now. Google has launched a new, opt-in ad service for non-Google sites and tools that shows how it tracks your internet activity what you ve searched for, visited and watched on Google services and actually lets you delete specific items or entire topics that get associated with your account.

The tool is Google s new My Activity setting.

It shows users what its ad-tracking service has learned about them across search, YouTube, Chrome, Android and everything else and it allows users to opt in or out of a new personalised ads service.

You might well be surprised by how much Google knows about you, particularly if you don t use tools that block scripts, cookies and ads, such as Ghostery, Privacy Badger and/or AdBlocker.

My Activity includes a setting that lets you choose ads that are relevant and useful.

When ads based on your interests is turned on, you ll see ads based on your prior search queries, the videos you ve watched on YouTube, as well as other information associated with your account, such as your age range or gender.

On Google sites such as YouTube, you ll see ads related to your interests, which you can edit. You can also block some ads that you don t want to see.

Sorry, there s no way to turn adds off. With ads based on your interests turned off, you ll still see ads.

They ll be less targeted and more based on information such as your general location: city and state. You won t be able to edit your interests: in fact, all the advertising interests associated with your Google account will be deleted.

You also now have the ability to turn off targeted advertising when it comes to your activity on websites beyond google.com.

You ll be able to mute some ads that don t interest you, you may see ads related to your interests and previous visits to other websites, and the ads may be based on anonymous demographic details such as age and gender. They also may be based on your

general location (such as city or state) or the current page or app you re looking at.

Turn it off, and again, you ll still see (less relevant) ads.

Google s also offering a Chrome extension to permanently opt out of Google s DoubleClick tracking cookie.

It won t spare you from ads. And some reviewers on the Chrome webstore said it didn t even keep them from being exposed to targeted ads.

Unfortunately, there is, as one extension reviewer noted, neither fairy dust nor other magic that will keep you from Google ads.

There are, however, a good amount of stories about adblockers from Naked Security!

Microsoft Pays Woman $10,000 for Auto-upgrading Her PC to Windows 10

Windows 10 auto-upgrades are like a sick, cruel joke being played on us by this point. Most stories that start with "my Windows 10 PC auto-upgraded" tend to end with "and then all my data was lost," but this particular version has a happy ending, because it involves Microsoft paying out a lot of money.

A California woman has won $10,000 from Microsoft, after the tech giant gave up challenging a court case. Teri Goldstein alleges that after her computer was upgraded to Windows 10, it became slow and unreliable.

I had never heard of Windows 10, Goldstein said. Nobody ever asked me if I wanted to update.

Goldstein subsequently took Microsoft to court, suing for lost wages and the cost of a new computer (running OS X, I hope). Goldstein won the initial court case, and although Microsoft initially appealed, it just dropped that case. So, Goldstein should be seeing a $10,000 check show up from Microsoft sometime soon.

In a statement to the Seattle Times, Microsoft said that " we re continuing to listen to customer feedback and evolve the upgrade experience based on their feedback.

As well as being a great Monday morning story of justice, the ruling has to be worrying for Microsoft. Ever since Windows 10 upgrades became more pushy (bordering on "malware" in some cases), horror stories of Windows 10 upgrades gone wrong have been doing the rounds of the internet. If even a tenth of affected customers can get a payout on the level of Tori Goldstein, this might be the most costly software update in history.

Microsoft’s Big Windows 10 Update To Launch

Microsoft’s latest major refresh of Windows 10 will be released publicly on Aug. 2, the company confirmed Wednesday morning.

In a blog post, Microsoft outlined the full list of new features coming with the update, including security upgrades, improvements to Cortana and features aimed at making touchscreen devices with Windows 10 more useful.

The news comes almost a year after the consumer launch of Windows 10, which has been one of the company s major turning points under the leadership of CEO Satya Nadella. The operating system has seen massive (if, at times, unintentional) adoption by both business and consumer users in that time, and these upgrades may further spur adoption across those markets as well.

With the launch of the Anniversary Update, users will now be able to do more with Cortana, the Microsoft virtual assistant that shipped with the operating system last year. The assistant is now available to take commands on users lock screens, so they can do things like ask questions and play music without having to unlock their devices.

Cortana can also remember things for users, such as their frequent flyer number, so they don’t have to go rooting around in a filing cabinet or email inbox in order to find that information.

Microsoft is also introducing new tools that make it easier to jot down notes using a touchscreen-enabled tablet or laptop. The Windows Ink features give users a virtual notepad to doodle, sketch or scribble down notes without having to wait for an app to launch.

That s only scratching the surface of the update, which also brings a slew of other features including security enhancements and improved Xbox integration. Microsoft Edge also received a handful of updates, including support for browser extensions - something that had been on the browser s roadmap since last year.

Until July 29, users can upgrade to Windows 10 for free. Microsoft hasn t said how much it will charge for an upgrade to its new operating system after that promotion ends, but the company has made clear that its offer to upgrade users without charge will be ending before the new update comes out.

Enterprise customers deals remain the same - they ve always had to pay for volume licenses of Windows 10, and this upcoming deadline doesn t change that.

People who want to take the new features for a spin a bit early can take part in the Windows Insider Program, a group of public beta testers that Microsoft has been giving new builds of Windows 10 prior to their release to consumers. Using an Insider build isn t for the faint of heart, however - they can have bugs that break key parts of Windows.

China Develops The World’s Most Powerful Supercomputer Without US Chips

Sunway TaihuLight, a newly built supercomputer from China, now ranks as the world’s most powerful machine.

During the International Supercomputer Conference in Germany on Monday, Top500 declared China’s 10.65 Million-core Sunway TaihuLight as the world’s fastest supercomputer. Moreover, the supercomputer is leading by a wide margin, too.

With 93 petaflops of processing power, Sunway TaihuLight is nearly three times more powerful than the world s previous fastest supercomputer, Tianhe-2, which had been the world’s fastest computer for last 3 years with speeds of 33.9 petaflops per second.

That’s 93 quadrillion floating point operations per second (FLOP), which means the supercomputer can perform around 93,000 trillion calculations per second, at its peak.

The Sunway TaihuLight supercomputer is installed at the National Supercomputing Centre in Wuxi.

"Sunway TaihuLight, with 10,649,600 computing cores comprising 40,960 nodes," is one of the world’s most efficient systems, with "peak power consumption under load (running the HPL benchmark)" at a relatively modest 15.37 Megawatts of energy consumption.

What’s the irony?

The microprocessors inside Sunway TaihuLight are 100 percent Chinese.

Sunway TaihuLight is powered entirely by Chinese processors (the 260-core ShenWei 26010) and runs on a custom Linux-based operating system.

Speaking of the TOP500 list, the National Supercomputing Centre’s director, Professor Dr. Guangwen Yang said:

"As the first number one system of China that is completely based on homegrown processors, the Sunway TaihuLight system demonstrates the significant progress that China has made in the domain of designing and manufacturing large-scale computation system."

In the past, China relied heavily on American processors for its supercomputers, but the US thought that China was using the Tianhe-2, which was built with Intel cores, to run its nuclear simulations.

Due to this reason, the United States government banned Intel from exporting its powerful Xeon processors over a year ago to a number of Chinese supercomputer makers.

The US decision did not halt the Chinese progress. Instead, it seems like the US policy has made an opposite effect.

For the first time since the Top500 list began, China has overtaken the United States in the amount of supercomputers being used. China has 167 computers in the top 500 while the US has 165.

"Considering that just 10 years ago, China claimed a mere 28 systems on the list, with none ranked in the top 30, the nation has come further and faster than any other country in the history of supercomputing," said the latest Top500 announcement.

Sunway TaihuLight will be used in scientific research and engineering work in fields including life science research, data analytics, advanced manufacturing and climate, weather and Earth systems modeling.

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